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NLETS MESSAGE (ALL REGIONS)

8/1/01

MESSAGE FROM FBI COUNTERTERRORISM DIVISION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1998 U.S. EMBASSY BOMBINGS IN EAST AFRICA APPROACHES; THREATS TO U.S. INTERESTS CONTINUE.

ALTHOUGH UNCLASSIFIED, THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE HANDLED AS LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE. THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD NOT BE FURNISHED TO THE MEDIA OR OTHER AGENCIES OUTSIDE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT/U.S. GOVERNMENT COUNTERTERRORISM COMMUNITY WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE FBI. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF FBI COMMUNICATIONS COULD JEOPARDIZE ONGOING FBI INVESTIGATIONS.

AS RECIPIENTS ARE AWARE, AUGUST 7 WILL MARK THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST AFRICA EMBASSY BOMBINGS. AS THE ANNIVERSARY DATE APPROACHES, RECIPIENTS ARE REMINDED OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAY IMPACT THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST THREAT ENVIRONMENT.

CASE STATUS:

TO DATE, 23 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN INDICTED FOR THEIR ROLES IN THE BOMBINGS OF THE U.S. EMBASSIES IN NAIROBI, KENYA, AND DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA, WHICH KILLED 224 PERSONS (INCLUDING 12 AMERICANS) AND INJURED THOUSANDS MORE.

FOUR OF THE INDICTED SUSPECTS, WADII EL-HAGE, MOHAMED RASHED DAOUD AL-OWHALI, KHALFAN KHAMIS MOHAMED, AND MOHAMED SADEEK ODEH, WERE FOUND GUILTY ON MAY 29, 2001, ON ALL CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST THEM. ONE SUSPECT, ALI MOHAMMED, PLED GUILTY TO FIVE COUNTS IN OCTOBER 2000. TWO OTHER SUSPECTS, MAMDOUH MAHMUD SALIM AND MOHAMED SULIEMAN AL-NALFI, ARE IN CUSTODY IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK (SDNY). SALIM WILL BE TRIED LATER THIS YEAR ON CHARGES STEMMING FROM A NOVEMBER 2000 ATTACK ON A PRISON GUARD. THREE INDIVIDUALS ARE IN CUSTODY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM PENDING EXTRADITION TO THE UNITED STATES. THE REMAINING 13, INCLUDING USAMA BIN LADEN AND HIS TWO TOP LIEUTENANTS, ARE FUGITIVES.

POTENTIAL THREAT:

AT THIS TIME, THE FBI DOES NOT POSSESS ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION INDICATING THAT INDIVIDUALS SYMPATHETIC TO THE EAST AFRICA BOMBERS OR USAMA BIN LADEN ARE PLANNING AN ATTACK TO COINCIDE WITH THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBINGS. HOWEVER, IN RECENT WEEKS, THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN TRACKING AN INCREASED VOLUME OF THREAT REPORTING EMANATING FROM GROUPS ALIGNED WITH OR SYMPATHETIC TO USAMA BIN LADEN. THE MAJORITY OF

THIS REPORTING INDICATES A POTENTIAL FOR ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. TARGETS ABROAD; HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ATTACK IN THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED.

CONCLUSION:

RECIPIENTS ARE BEING NOTIFIED AT THIS TIME BECAUSE THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONSIDERS ANNIVERSARY DATES AS A KEY THREAT INDICATOR. ALTHOUGH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY PERSONNEL ARE CAUTIONED NOT TO EXCLUSIVELY RELY ON SUCH DATES TO "PREDICT" ACTS OF TERRORISM, ANNIVERSARY DATES CERTAINLY WARRANT INCREASED ATTENTION IN ROUTINE SECURITY PLANNING.

RECIPIENTS WHO RECEIVE OR DEVELOP ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS MATTER SHOULD CONTACT THEIR LOCAL FBI OFFICE OR FBI HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY.